

Hamlet.Europe.Transfer

The European Research and Exhibition Project continues

On March 27, the annual World Theatre Day, experts of German research and educational institutions met at the Theatre Museum Düsseldorf and agreed upon liaising in projects in the field of research and documentation as well as in education on the European history of the play about the great “Prince of the Danes”.

On a national level the Theatre Museum Düsseldorf, which has taken leadership in the international Hamlet-network last year, was offered co-operation by the German Theatre Museum in Munich and the Theatre Department of the Reiss-Engelhorn-Museum of the city of Mannheim. Amongst the list of supporters are also the Theatre Collection of the University of Cologne, the Austrian Theatre Museum in Vienna and the Theatre Museum of the Meininger Cultural Foundation.

The research project of the Theatre Museum Düsseldorf for the international Exhibition Project will be dedicated to “Gustaf Gründgens and Hamlet”. As a drama student Düsseldorf-born Gründgens encountered the part of Hamlet for the first time in 1920 in a production of the Schauspielhaus Düsseldorf. He then played the “Prince of Denmark” in Hamburg (1927) and Berlin (1936), followed by guest performances in Düsseldorf, Vienna and the Danish castle Kronborg in the 1930ies. In 1962 his very last production as a theatre director also happened to be Hamlet, the title part then played by Maximilian Schell.

The topic “Gustaf Gründgens and Hamlet” reflects not only the national but also the international perspective and relevance of the whole exhibition project. Productions like those in Berlin, Düsseldorf and Hamburg and their reception in Europe are an example for the international exchange of artistic ideas and conceptions and the mutual perception and impact amongst different theatre cultures.

Prof. Dr. Hildegard Hammerschmidt-Hummel, representative and co-founder of the Shakespeare picture library of the University of Mainz, offered an exchange of information concerning the reflection of Hamlet in fine art.

The Theatre Museum Düsseldorf also agreed to collaborate with the Shakespeare Globe Zentrum Munich, lead by Dr. Vanessa Schormann, concerning questions in the field of Hamlet in education.

Dr. Winrich Meiszies, head of the project and director of the museum, and his team are now preparing an international meeting in Warsaw which will be hosted by the Polish Theatre Institute.